

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant submits this paper in response to the final Office Action dated April 16, 2009 and the Advisory Action dated July 31, 2009. Applicant has filed herewith a petition for a one-month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and has included the requisite fee. Claims 1 – 10 are pending in this application.

Applicant's attorney thanks Examiner Safavi for the telephone interview conducted on August 6, 2009. During the interview, the parties discussed the status identifiers (amended, twice amended, etc.) of the claims. The parties agreed that Applicant would submit a claim listing with corrected status identifiers for Claims 1 and 10. The parties also discussed the need to identify support in the disclosure for the previously entered claim amendments and the need to file a Supplemental Oath stating that all amendments arose without deceptive intent.

Status Identifiers

Examiner stated on page 2 of the Advisory Action dated July 31, 2009 that the status identifier of Claim 10 as presented in the amendment of July 19, 2009 was incorrect. Examiner further stated that the status identifier of Claim 1 as submitted in the RCE dated October 24, 2007 was incorrect.

The above "Listing of Claim 1 and Claim 10" has the correct status identifiers for Claims 1 and 10. Applicant avers that the status identifier for Claim 2 in the RCE dated 10/24/2007 was

correct. Applicant has not amended the text of Claim 1, Claim 10, or any other claim in the present Response.

1) Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended twice: in the Preliminary Amendment dated 9/26/2003 and in the Replacement Preliminary Amendment dated 5/5/2005. The status identifier for Claim 1 in the 5/5/2005 amendment incorrectly stated "currently amended" instead of "twice amended." Further, Claim 1 was shown with the incorrect status identifier of "amended" in the RCE filed 10/24/2007. Applicant has corrected the status identifier of Claim 1 in the above "Listing of Claim 1 and Claim 10" to reflect the fact that Claim 1 has been amended twice.

2) Claim 10

Claim 10 has been amended three times: in the Preliminary Amendment dated 9/26/2003, in the Replacement Preliminary Amendment dated 5/5/2005, and in the Amendment dated 7/16/2009. The status identifier for Claim 10 in the Amendment dated 7/16/2009 incorrectly stated "twice amended" instead of "thrice amended." Applicant has corrected the status identifier of Claim 10 in the above "Listing of Claim 1 and Claim 10" to reflect the fact that Claim 10 has been amended three times ("thrice amended").

3) Claim 2

Claim 2 has been amended once, in the Preliminary Amendment dated 9/26/2003. The status identifier for Claim 2 in the Preliminary Amendment dated 9/26/2003 incorrectly stated

“currently amended” instead of “amended,” however. This error was corrected in the RCE filed 10/24/2007, where the status identifier for Claim 2 was listed as [once] “amended.” (Claim 2 was not amended by the RCE filed 10/24/2007 but rather by the Preliminary Amendment dated 9/26/2003.) Because Claim 2 was listed with the proper status identifier in the RCE dated 10/24/2007, Applicant has not included Claim 2 in the above listing of claims.

Supplemental Oath

Examiner stated on page 3 of the Advisory Action dated July 31, 2009 that a Supplemental Oath is required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.175(b)(1). Applicant has submitted such an Oath with this Response.

Support in Specification for Amendments

Examiner stated on page 2 of the Advisory Action dated July 31, 2009 that Applicant must provide an explanation for the support in the specification for the amendments to the claims (whether insertions or deletions.) Applicant has done so below. The figure numbers and column and line numbers below refer to those in Applicant’s issued patent, U.S. Patent No. 6,324,796.

1) Claim 1

Applicant has corrected the improper sequence of letters for the four paragraphs. Specifically, Applicant has amended the third paragraph to be letter (c) and the fourth paragraph to be letter (d). Applicant avers that this correction is the correction of a typographical error and

that the proper sequence of letters are inherent in the English language. Applicant further avers that other claims (such as Claim 10) in the original patent were properly labeled from (a) to (d).

Applicant has amended the third paragraph to replace the phrase “intermediate said second side wall and” with the word “proximate”. Applicant avers that Figs. 1 and 2 provide support for this amendment. Specifically, Figs. 1 and 2 show that aperture 24 is proximate the upwardly extending longitudinal wall 19.

Applicant has amended the fourth paragraph to add the phrase “and crests” to clarify that the lands and crests include parallel major and minor crests as well as lands. Applicant avers that Col. 3, ll. 16 – 23 and Fig. 1 provide support for this amendment. Specifically, Fig. 1 shows a plurality of major crests 32. Fig. 1 also shows a plurality of minor crests 34.

Applicant has also amended the fourth paragraph to change the singular “crest” into the plural “crests.” Applicant avers that this is a minor typographical error and that the antecedent basis for “said major crest(s)” is listed in the plural as “separated by major crests.” Applicant further avers that Col. 3, ll. 16 – 23 and Fig. 1 provide support for this amendment. Specifically, Fig. 1 shows a plurality of major crests 32.

2) Claim 2

Applicant has amended the third paragraph to replace the phrase “intermediate said second side wall and” with the word “proximate”. Applicant avers that Figs. 1 and 2 provide support for this amendment. Specifically, Figs. 1 and 2 show that aperture 24 is proximate the upwardly extending longitudinal wall 19.

3) Claim 10

Applicant has amended the third paragraph to replace the phrase “intermediate said second side wall and” with the word “proximate”. Applicant avers that Figs. 1 and 2 provide support for this amendment. Specifically, Figs. 1 and 2 show that aperture 24 is proximate the upwardly extending longitudinal wall 19.

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Conclusion

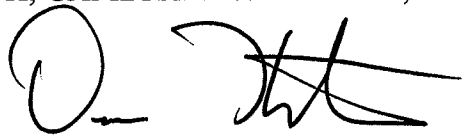
Applicant believes that the present Response places the application in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits same. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper or the accompanying papers, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to SGR Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 043850.016. If an additional extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The additional extension fee also should be

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charged to SGR Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 043850.016. Any overpayment can be credited to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 043850.016.

Respectfully submitted,

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